



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Michael Hinds

Examiner: Roger Pang

Serial No.: 09/881,115

Group Art Unit 3681

Filed: 06/14/2001

(Atty. Ref. No. 15745-US)

For: MAGNETIC PROTECTION OF HYDRAULIC SEAL

Moline, IL 61265

18 November 2002

RECEIVED
NOV 22 2002
GROUP 3600

First Amendment

The Honorable Commissioner
of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action dated 09/23/2002, applicant requests that the above-identified application be amended as follows:

In the Claims:

1. (amended) In a gearbox containing gearing and having a low section having a bottom wall, a rotatable drive shaft extending through said bottom wall and being coupled to said gearing, and a seal located for preventing oil from leaking along an interface including a surface section of the shaft where it enters said bottom wall of the gearbox, the improvement comprising: a contaminant collector having magnetic characteristics being mounted in said gearbox in a location closely adjacent a top surface of said seal so as to intercept and collect ferric contaminants before they engage the seal.

In conclusion, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested.

Any fees or charges due as a result of filing of the present paper may be charged against Deposit Account 04-0525. Two duplicates of this page are enclosed.

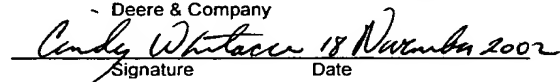
Respectfully,


Attorney for Applicant(s)

Jimmie R. Oaks
Reg. No. 24,987
Patent Department
Deere & Company
One John Deere Place
Moline, IL 61265
Telephone No. (309) 765-4392

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, DC 20231, on 18 Nov 02
Date

- Deere & Company


Signature Date 18 November 2002